

SENATE BILL 2782

By White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38;  
Title 39 and Title 40, relative to prostitution.

WHEREAS, according to the Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences, 95.1% of sex trafficked survivors reported experiencing violence or abuse during the victimization; and

WHEREAS, prostitution is an inherent component of sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, minor human trafficking victims have been identified and rescued when adults committing acts of prostitution were willing to speak with law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, those committing acts of prostitution often witness felony offenses and acts of violence committed against themselves and others; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Prostitution Amnesty Law."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 5, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Criminal act" means any criminal conduct punishable as a misdemeanor or felony under the laws of this state; and

(2) "Prostitution" has the same meaning as defined in § 39-13-512.

(b) A person who in good faith reports a criminal act committed against the person or another, shall not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for prostitution if the evidence for the arrest, charge, or prosecution for the offense of prostitution resulted solely from the person's report of the criminal act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to acts committed on or after that date.